DOCKET NO.: DMCI-0026

Application No.: 09/462,576

Office Action Dated: August 11, 2003

PATENT REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO 37 CFR § 1.116

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

- 1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing vanillin in cultured *Vanilla planifolia*, which comprises:
 - a) providing a tissue culture of said Vanilla planifolia; and
- b) supplementing the culture with a compound selected from the group consisting of malic acid at a concentration of at least-about 0.01% 3% by weight of the culture medium, 1mM 3,4-dihydroxybenzaldehyde, a combination of malic acid and 3,4-dihydroxybenzaldehyde, and $30 \mu g/ml$ glycosylated lysozyme, in an amount effective to result in the vanillin production in the cultured *Vanilla planifolia*.
- 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the tissue culture is an embryo culture.
- 3. (Canceled).
- 4. (Currently Amended) <u>A method for producing vanillin in cultured Vanilla planifolia</u>, which comprises:
- a) providing a tissue culture of said Vanilla planifolia; The method of claim 3, wherein the culture is subjected
- b) subjecting the culture to mechanical shear stress for 21 days[,]; and followed by addition of the
- c) adding malic acid at a concentration of between about 1% and 3% by weight of the culture medium.
- 5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 4, wherein the culture is supplemented with 3,4-dihydroxybenzaldehyde at a concentration of between about 0.1 and 5 mM.

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6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 4, wherein the culture is further supplemented with about 0.01 to about 5% by weight of a compound selected from the group consisting of succinic acid, oxaloacetic acid, citric acid and pyruvic acid.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ½ 4, wherein the culture is supplemented with about 1 to about 100 30 μg/ml of glycosylated lysozyme.

8-30. (Canceled)

- 31. (Currently Amended) A cell culture comprising *Vanilla planifolia* cells in a culture medium supplemented with an elicitor of vanillin synthesis selected from the group consisting of malic acid, 3,4-dihydroxybenzaldehyde, a combination of malic acid and 3,4-dihydroxybenzaldehyde, and glycosylated lysozyme, wherein, after about 15 days in culture exposure to the elicitor, the cell culture produces at least twice as much vanillin as a cell culture after 15 days in culture under equivalent conditions, in a culture medium which was not supplemented with the elicitor.
- 32. (Currently Amended) The cell culture of claim 31, which, at after 15 days in culture exposure to the elicitor, produces at least ten times as much vanillin as a cell culture after 15 days in culture under equivalent conditions, in a culture medium which was not supplemented with the elicitor.
- 33. (Original) The cell culture of claim 31, wherein the cells are embryo cells.
- 34. (Original) The cell culture of claim 31, wherein the cells are root cells.
- 35-40. (Canceled)
- 41. (Withdrawn) A cell culture medium for the production of vanillin in cultured *Vanilla planifolia* cells comprising a cell culture medium supplemented with a compound selected from the group consisting of malic acid at a concentration of at least about 0.01% by weight

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of the culture medium, 3,4-dihydroxybenzaldehyde, a combination of malic acid and 3,4-dihydroxybenzaldehyde, and glycosylated lysozyme, in an amount effective to result in the vanillin production in the cultured *Vanilla planifolia*.

- 42. (Withdrawn) The cell culture medium of claim 41 which provides an at least about two-fold or more increase in the production of vanillin compared to a culture medium which is not supplemented.
- 43. (Withdrawn) The cell culture medium of claim 41 which provides an at least about ten-fold or more increase in the production of vanillin compared to a culture medium which is not supplemented.
- 44. (New) The cell culture of claim 31, which, at after 7 days in culture exposure to the elicitor, produces at least ten times as much vanillin as a cell culture after 7 days in culture under equivalent conditions, in a culture medium which was not supplemented with the elicitor.